Cost of delay in irrigation projects

4422. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre and the States are losing over a lakh crore rupees due to cost over-runs in delayed irrigation projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 205 major and minor irrigation projects which originally would have cost Rs. 1,16,242 crore due to delays ranging from one to six years; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations to find the cause for delay and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Delay in completion of projects results in cost over-run. The other reasons for cost over run are inadequate provision in the original estimates, change in the scope of the project mostly extension of command area, geological surprises, unexpected increase in the cost of land acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, forest land acquisition,cost escalation of construction material, labour etc. In view of normal gestation period of major projects as 10 to 15 years and that of medium projects as 5 to 8 years, the major projects started during or before 1992 and medium projects started during or before Eighth plan which will be continuing as ongoing in Eleventh plan may be considered as delayed projects. As per the Working Group Report for Eleventh Plan, Plan-wise break-up of such ongoing projects likely to spill over into Eleventh Plan are given as under:

Plan of start	Projects likely to be spilled over to 11th Plan		
	Major	Medium	Total
I	0	0	0
II	2	0	2
III	5	1	6

Plan of start	Projects likely to be spilled over to 11th Plan		
	Major	Medium	Total
AP-66-69	2	0	2
IV	8	3	11
V	33	23	56
AP-78-80	2	5	7
VI	25	21	46
VII	10	13	23
AP-90-92	2	2	4
VIII	0	48	48
TOTAL:	89	116	205

Among the above 205 projects, 62 major and 49 medium projects are approved projects. As the information available in Central Water Commission, total original approved cost of these 111 projects was Rs.20,420 crore whereas, the latest estimated cost is Rs.1,16,242 crore.

(c) Generally the projects are delayed due to fund constraints, resettlement and rehabilitation issues, land acquisition, forest and environmental clearance, Inter-departmental bottlenecks, contractual problems and changes in the scope of the projects etc. Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding as well as priority of construction and completion of projects is within the purview of State Government. In order to expedite completion of ongoing irrigation projects, the Central Government launchd Acceleted Irrigation Benefit Programme in 1996-97 under which, Central Loan Assistance/Grant amounting to Rs.23231.8659 crore has been provided to the States till date.

Development of irrigation in Maharashtra

4423. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that World Bank has approved Rs. 1700 crores for the development in the field of "irrigation' in Maharashtra